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12 DAYS TO GO
SOUTH AFRICA 2010
FIFA WORLD CUP



PHOTO: AFP
Junaed Siddiqui (R) walks off after edging England paceman Steve Finn (C) to the slips on the third day of the Lord's Test yesterday. His dismissal sparked a collapse that saw Bangladesh reduced to 221 for 6.

Tigers in tatters

Cricket

AFP, London

Steven Finn took Test best figures of four wickets for 75 runs in 20 overs as England reduced Bangladesh to 237 for seven on a curtailed third day of the first Test at Lord's here on Saturday. Bangladesh were 268 runs behind England's first innings 505, still needing 69 more runs to avoid the follow-on, at stumps. Rain and bad light meant only 28.5 overs were possible in the day's play, but Bangladesh still lost five wickets for 65 runs. Mahmudullah was seven not out and Shahadat Hossain three not out as Bangladesh, who fought hard with both bat and ball on Friday, struggled in overcast conditions ideal for seam bowling. After rain meant no play before lunch Finn, playing his first Test in England and on his Middlesex home ground, took two wickets for four runs in eight balls. He was well supported by fellow seamer James Anderson, who took two wickets for nine runs in 9.5 overs on his way to overall figures of two for 61 in 25.5. Bangladesh resumed on their overnight score of 172 for two. Junaed Siddiqui was 53 not out and Jahurul Islam unbeaten on 16. The 6ft 7in Finn struck in Saturday's fourth over. Finn, 21, who first featured in Tests during England's 2-0 series win in Bangladesh in March, had Junaed, on 59, fending at a ball that got 'big' on the left-hander and wicketkeeper Matt Prior held the edge. Then 179 for three become 185 for four when Finn had

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Diego and co land in SA

AFP, Johannesburg

Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi arrived here on Saturday with the Argentina squad to prepare for a World Cup they are among the favourites to win. Clear skies and cool early morning autumn conditions greeted the third team to land in South Africa after Asia powerhouse Australia and five-time champions Brazil for the June 11-July 11 international football showcase featuring 32 national teams. After a brief session with select TV crews and photographers, coach Maradona, Barcelona superstar Messi and a mix of foreign-based and domestic stars left in a brightly painted luxury coach for their Pretoria base. Football legend Maradona - who is bidding to add World Cup glory as coach to the 1986 trophy he won as a player - drew huge crowds wherever he went during a pre-tournament inspection visit to South Africa and is set to be among the most colourful characters at the first

African World Cup. The 49-year-old considered by many critics the greatest footballer the game has seen created headlines this week by demanding a special heated loo seat and promising

to run naked through central Buenos Aires if he lifts the Cup. A 450-dollar heated loo seat with a warm-air blow dryer and front and rear bidet wands was ordered for the room where Maradona will stay, South

African reports said. And the naked-run boast came during an Argentine radio show the day after his team outclassed Canada 5-0 in a warm-up for World Cup Group B fixtures against Nigeria, South Korea and Greece. He captained his country to World Cup glory in 1986 - the tournament in which he scored the 'Hand of God' goal against England - but had to be satisfied with a runners-up medal four years later. Maradona, banned during the 1994 World Cup after testing positive for the banned substance ephedrine, succeeded Alfio Basile as coach halfway through a faltering Argentine campaign to qualify for the 2010 World Cup. The 49-year-old also battled to find a winning formula and Argentina secured a place in South Africa only in the final round with a 1-0 victory over Uruguay in Montevideo. Argentina fell 2-1 away to European champions Spain and triumphed 1-0 away to 2006 World Cup hosts and bronze medalists Germany in high-profile warm-up matches. But Maradona has yet to convince sections of the media he can take his country to a third title after winning at home in 1978 and in Mexico eight years later. Criticisms include favouring an overly cautious system that includes only two strikers, usually Messi and Gonzalo

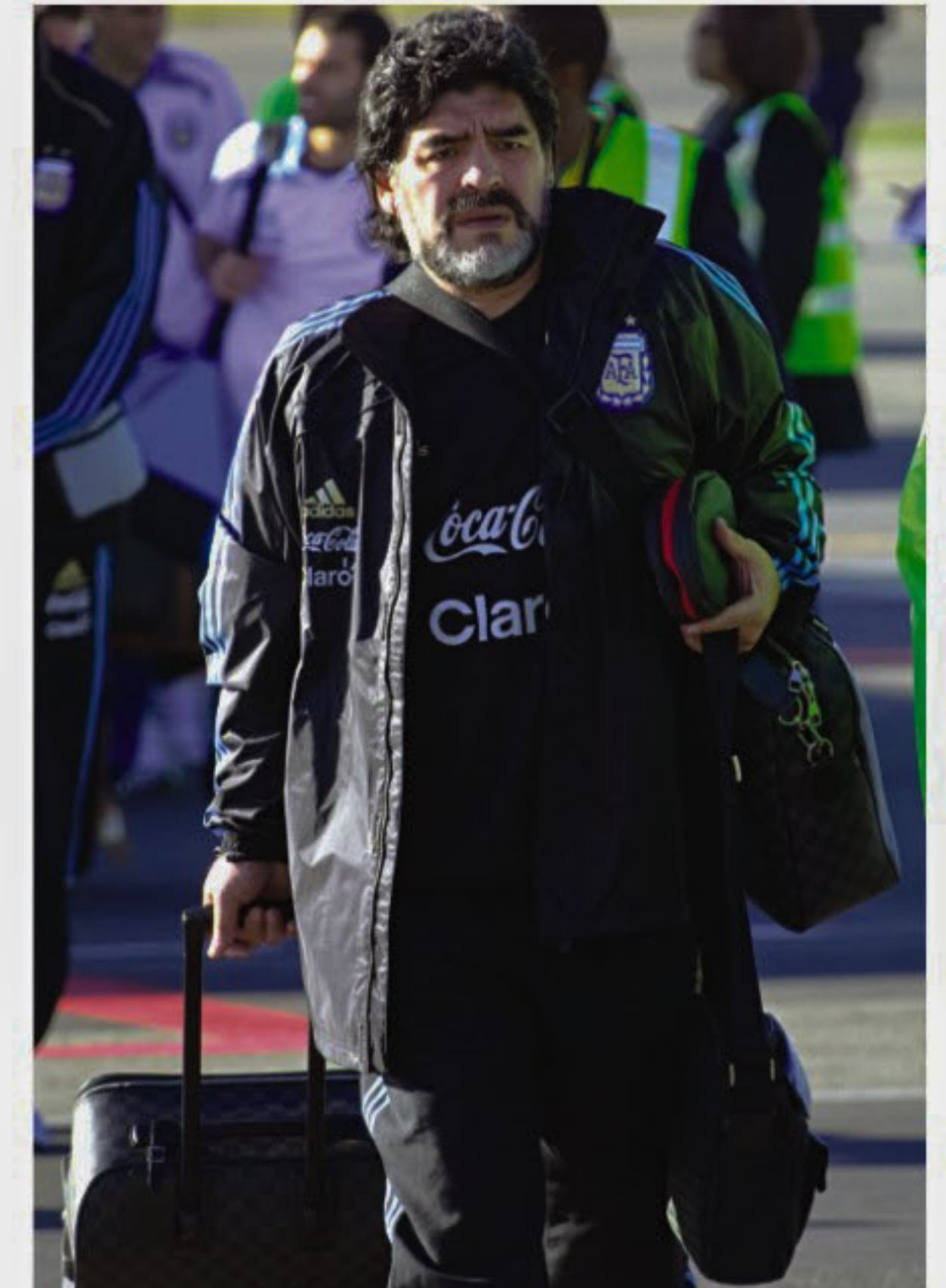


PHOTO: AFP
Argentina coach Diego Maradona arrives with his squad at the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg on Saturday.

INT'L FRIENDLY RESULTS

AFP, Austria
Spain 3 (Villa 30, Alonso 58, Llorente 90): Saudi Arabia 2 (Hasawi 17, Hazazi 74)
New Zealand 1 (Smelz 22): Serbia 0

Goal for education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first goal to be scored at this year's football World Cup will be dedicated to education. FIFA president Sepp Blatter will make the announcement immediately after the first goal of the tournament, which could possibly be scored in the opening game between South Africa and Mexico at Soccer City in Johannesburg on June 11, said Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) at a press conference yesterday. The announcement will come following the worldwide campaign '1 Goal: Education for All' launched by Global Campaign for Education, an international civil society movement, working for ensuring education for all and eradication of illiteracy.

The campaign is aimed draw attention of the world leaders to ensure Education for All (EFA) irrespective of caste, colour and gender. Rasheda, who will be coordinating the Bangladesh part of the '1 Goal: Education for All' campaign, said the CAMPE has chalked out a number of programmes to implement the campaign in Bangladesh. CAMPE is a network of over hundred NGOs having education programmes. The programmes include publishing newspaper supplement; airing TV spot on 1 Goal; SMS campaign; display of '1 Goal: Education for All' message; organise talk show and showing the opening match of the World Cup on giant screens in Dhaka and other districts of the country. "The major aims of the campaign are to achieve a breakthrough on EFA by creating massive awareness, mobilising the mass people as well winning the support of the policymakers so that it can be achieved by 2015," said Rasheda.

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Serena pulls through

AFP, Paris

Top seed Serena Williams survived a French Open health scare on Saturday, while Russia's Nadia Petrova defeated Roland Garros golden girl Aravane Rezaï in a marathon, Centre Court comedy of errors. Williams, the 2002 champion, beat Russia's 29th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 to reach the last 16, but needed treatment after slipping at 0-5 down in the second set, having cruised through the opener. She had her pulse tested and temperature taken courtside, although she did manage to compose herself to win the next game before the 18-year-old Russian went on to level the match. Williams, despite still appearing uncomfortable, then broke twice in the final set and will

face either Israel's Shahar Peer or Marion Bartoli of France for a place in the quarterfinals. Williams, who won a 12th career Grand Slam singles title in Australia in January, arrived in Paris under an injury cloud after a knee injury sidelined her until May. "Serena's a great fighter," said Pavlyuchenkova, a former junior world champion. "In the third set she was still confident. She is Serena. Maybe she took some pain-killers from the doctor, she could have been a little dizzy. But she was still aggressive and played with more power." Petrova, the Russian 20th seed, beat French 19th seed Rezaï 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 10-8 in a third-round match that had been suspended in darkness on Friday at 7-7 in the final set.

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BKSP rule the roost

Athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

Taslima Akhter Moni was the star performer as her school BKSP dominated the concluding day with four gold medals in the 26th National Junior (Age-Group) Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The BKSP girl won gold in the girls 100m sprint, high jump, long jump and 4x100m relay after an ordinary opening day where she won silver in the girls 200m sprint when teammate Mezbah Ahmed won three gold medals. Taslima began her work on Saturday with a 1.30m jump that beat of competitions from Tahmina Akhter (1.25m) and Tumpa Moni (1.25m) before winning the girls long jump with a 5.06m jump. Then she won in the girls 100m sprint with a timing of 12.7s, easily beating teammate Papia Rani Sarkar and Sadia Shaolin of Natore.

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Penalties of fame

WORLD CUP 1990 CONTINUED

Cameroon continued their amazing run with a 2-1 defeat of Colombia, thanks in no small part to the comedic keeping of René Higuita, whose suicidal attempt to dribble round Roger Milla resulted in the veteran striker's second goal. Similar romance was provided by the Republic of Ireland, playing in their first finals, and knocking out Romania in a thrilling penalty shoot-out in Genoa. Never pretty to watch, Jack Charlton's side won friends with their unstinting work ethic. After a trip to meet the Pope in Rome, their tournament was ended by the hosts and a goal by Toto Schillaci. West Germany progressed after beating Czechoslovakia through a Matthäus penalty. England spoilt the Cameroon party with an extra-time win despite twice being behind. Argentina's ugly roadshow continued with a penalty shoot-out win over Yugoslavia, for whom Dragan Stojkovic and Robert Prosinecki had dazzled all tournament. Despite missing a penalty himself, Maradona would face the hosts in his adopted hometown of Naples. It went down to the dreaded spot-kicks again. Schillaci had put the Italians ahead but Caniggia equalised. A rough-house approach from Argentina prevented the Italians' passing moves and, though Ricardo Giusti was dismissed early in extra-time, it was back to the lottery of penalties - a lottery the Argentinians were now used to. Maradona converted after Milan's Roberto Donadoni had missed and then Aldo Serena missed, too. Tears were shed as the Azzurri went out. The other semi-final in Turin is a game of English legend where, in keeping with much of football

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PHOTO: STAR ARCHIVE
After the semifinal shoot-out, a pile of celebrating Germans is not sight for a grieving Englishman. Lothar Matthäus (L) sympathises with poor Chris Waddle, but his eyes are already on the prize.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Mohammad Abdul Malek took solo lead after the eleventh round of the Six Seasons International Chess Tournament in Narayanganj yesterday. Malek beat WFM Shamima Akhter Liza to improve his tally to 7.5 points. FM Joydeep Dutta of India followed him with seven points after his win over Nida Mishraz Siddiqui of Pakistan.

NEW TAEKWONDO CHIEF

Kazi Morshed Hossain Kamal was appointed as the new president of the Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation, confirmed the Youth and Sports Ministry. He was previously the vice-president of the federation. Kamal, who heads Anam Corporation Ltd, is also the chairman of Udiity Club.

RUGBY COMPETITION

Bangladesh J-Sports crushed Titumir College 40-10 in the Cooline AC Rugby competition at the Paltan Maidan yesterday. The winners led the first half by a whopping 20-0 margin. In the day's first match, Lalbagh defeated Seven Wonders 22-5. The final between Sonargaon Nayapur Seven Star and Bangladesh J-Sports will take place at the same venue at 4.00pm today.

GIRLS SCHOOL CRICKET

In the battle of Vigarunnisa Noon School teams, their B side crushed the A side by 81 runs in the Girls School cricket tournament at the Azimpur Girls High School ground yesterday. Pinky struck an unbeaten 48-ball 61 with four boundaries and five sixes as her team put up 151-2 in 20 overs. The A side were bowled out for just 70 runs in 18.1 overs as Poly took four wickets. In another match, Azimpur Girls High School beat Par Gendaria Non-Govt Primary & Junior High School by two runs.

MANIKGANJ CRICKET

Our Correspondent adds: Friends XI beat Dashara Palli Mangal Samity (DPMS) by four wickets in the Col (ret'd) Malek Smriti

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Danone Nations Cup from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The zonal phase of the Danone Nations Cup (10-12 years age group) football tournament get underway at different venues across the country today. A total of 38 district teams, split into eight groups, will take part in the first phase of the competition in Gazipur, Brahmanbaria, Thakurgaon, Barisal, Rajbari, Meherpur.

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CLEAR men CONFIDENCE CUP
inter college football tournament - 2010

DHAKA ROUND

31 May 2010 Match 5 Trust College VS Sristy Central School & College Time : 9:30am - 10:30am	31 May 2010 Match 6 University Laboratory School & College VS B.N College Time : 11:00am - 12:00pm
31 May 2010 Match 7 Saint Joseph Higher Secondary School VS Safiuddin Sarker Academy & College Time : 12:30pm - 1:30pm	31 May 2010 Match 8 Balughat School & College VS Dhaka Science College Time : 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Army Stadium

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